

# **MRCGP Applied Knowledge Test**

**Prepared by the AKT Core Group  
July 2026**

# Objectives

- An overview of the content and structure
- To give examples of current question formats
- To describe how questions are constructed
- To advise on how to prepare and pass the AKT
- To explain practicalities of computer-based tests

# AKT Background

- The AKT:
  - Is a summative assessment of the knowledge base underpinning independent UK general practice
  - Tests the application of this knowledge
  - Tests the critical interpretation of information
  - Is mapped to the latest RCGP Curriculum updates
- Each question is intended to explore a topic which GPs across the UK should be expected to have a working knowledge of

# Format

- From Oct 2025: a 160-item multiple-choice test lasting 160 minutes (2 hours 40 minutes)\*
  - No multiple true/false questions
  - No negative marking
- Delivered on a computer terminal\* at an invigilated test centre
- Offered four times a year:  
Jan/Feb, April/May, July, Oct/Nov

\* Please see slide 59 **and** the RCGP website for information on reasonable adjustments

# Rules

- Only trainees in the ST2 and ST3 stages of training are eligible to take the AKT.
- In accordance with GMC guidance\* an AKT pass is valid for seven years.
- GP Registrars in training (includes TGPT, LTFT, on Maternity Leave) in ST2/3 between 18 March 2020 and 3 August 2021 whose ability to study for and take the exam was affected by COVID-19 have the currency of their AKT extended to 7 years and 6 months.

\*<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/regulations-exam-marking-results#regulation13.8>

# Rules: numbers of attempts 1

**For GP Registrars who enter GP Speciality training for the first time on or after 2 August 2023:**

All such trainees are allowed a **maximum** of **six** attempts.

**For GP Registrars already in training on 1 August 2023:**

**Four** attempts are allowed in the AKT but trainees who have passed the CSA, SCA or RCA, have **additional educational attainment** and the support of their deanery can apply for an exceptional fifth attempt at the AKT.

**For all trainees:** one of these attempts may be in the twelve-month period immediately following exit from training without receiving a CCT.

# Rules: numbers of attempts 2

## **A new diagnosis of disability:**

Previous unsuccessful attempts may be voided if a candidate receives a diagnosis of a disability of which they were previously unaware, if this disability would have resulted in the award of reasonable adjustments.

## **COVID-19:**

A single unsuccessful attempt at either the July or August 2020 AKT did **not** count towards the total number of permitted attempts.

# Rules: Exam confidentiality

AKT questions are confidential and copyrighted. All candidates are required to agree to these regulations before taking the AKT:  
<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/regulations-introduction>

The rules apply to all forms of communication, including social media. When confidentiality is breached, this has to be reported:  
<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/misconduct-for-akt-sca>

The AKT has a very extensive bank of questions. Some have several versions, and the 160 questions in an exam 'paper' are chosen randomly. If you are offered access to questions, please think carefully and do not rely on these for your revision.

# Vital Statistics – July 2026

**AKT 60 pass mark = 112/160 (70%)**

**Overall pass rate = 73.2%**

**UK graduates first-time takers pass rate = 86.2%**

(Pass rates vary in different diets of the AKT taken at different times throughout the training year)

**The cumulative pass rate for all those who take the AKT is above 96%**

# Vital Statistics – July 2026

**Overall mean score = 120.2 (75.1%)**

**Mean scores by subject area:**

| Subject area                | Mean score (%) | No. of questions |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Clinical knowledge          | 76.2           | 128              |
| Evidence-based practice     | 73.5           | 16               |
| Organisation and management | 68.2           | 16               |

# Topics causing most difficulty for candidates in AKT 60

## Life stages topics:

### Children and Young People

- Joint disorders in children

## Clinical topics:

- Skin rashes
- Management of common respiratory conditions
- Neurological presentations: cranial nerve conditions

# Topics causing most difficulty for candidates in AKT 59

## Professional topics:

### **Continuity and Quality of Care, Safety and Prescribing**

- Monitoring common medications
- Identifying prescription errors

### **Leadership, management and administration**

- Data protection in GP consultations

## Life stages topics:

### **Children and Young People**

- Safeguarding and confidentiality

## Clinical topics:

- 'Minor' illness

# Topics causing most difficulty for candidates in AKT 58

## **Professional topics:**

### **Evidence-based practice, Research and Sharing Knowledge:**

- Interpretation of data charts

## **Life stages topics:**

### **People at the end of life**

- Common symptoms in palliative care

## **Clinical topics:**

- Common biochemical disturbances
- Common ophthalmological conditions
- Neurology: gait disorders

# Topics causing most difficulty for candidates in AKT 57

## Professional topics:

### **Continuity and quality of care, safety and prescribing**

- Side-effects of common medications for long-term conditions

### **Leadership, management and administration**

- Confidentiality guidance

## Life stages topics:

### **Children and Young People**

- Presenting features of cancer in children
- Acute illness in children
- Child safeguarding

## Clinical topics:

- Diagnosis of common neurological symptoms

# Summary of 'professional topics' causing most difficulty in recent AKT exams

## **Consulting in General Practice:**

- Communication of risk and use of risk tools

## **Evidence-based practice, Research and Sharing Knowledge:**

- Basic understanding of concepts and terms in research
- Data interpretation (both research and other data sources)

## **Improving Quality, Safety and Prescribing:**

- Antibiotic indications, guidance, and resistance
- Drugs: monitoring/ side-effects; prescribing for specific groups the elderly/ end-of-life
- Pathology results, especially borderline and abnormal parameters

## **Leadership and management:**

- Confidentiality, data protection and privacy (including social media)
- Death certification and notifications to Coroner/ Procurator fiscal
- Staff health, and health and safety in the workplace

## **Life stages topics:**

- Children and Young People including consent and capacity; developmental assessment and screening; safeguarding and non-accidental injury
- People at the End-of-Life including symptoms, ethics and mental capacity

*\* Recently improved (AKT 50-58)*

# Summary of clinical topics causing most difficulty in recent AKT exams

## Clinical topics:

- Asthma, COPD and rarer respiratory diagnoses; interpreting lung function tests
- Cardiovascular health including: diagnosis, ECG interpretation; reducing risk
- Common gynaecological problems incl. investigations, timely pregnancy testing
- Contraception (incl. use with teratogenic drugs) and HRT
- Dermatology: recognition of common conditions and treatment\*
- Diagnosis of common oral conditions
- Different presentations of multi-system disease
- Eye and eyelid problems
- Mental health – presentations with physical symptoms; substance abuse\*
- **Neurological diagnosis, red flags, and interpretation of examination findings**
- Normal findings, minor illness, and infections in childhood
- Prescribing in diabetes, including insulin
- Suspected cancer: diagnosis & investigation (including less common presentations)\*
- Timely but appropriate referral (including emergencies and when to do nothing)

# Question writing (1)

- Topical
- Practice issues
- Scenarios derived from clinical work

# Question writing (2)

- All questions are referenced and the draft questions are then carefully scrutinised by a panel of experienced question writers
- Care is taken to consider any conflict between national guidance and regulations across the four devolved nations
- Remember that all question writers are working GPs

# Important Reference Material (1)

- GMC Good Medical Practice
- NICE guidelines
- SIGN guidelines
- CKS (NICE clinical knowledge summaries) if topics **not** already covered by above guidance
- Immunisation against infectious disease (gov.uk) 'The Green Book'
- The AKT does **not** test on local guidance
- The AKT does **not** prioritise one national guideline over another, but can explore significant differences

# Important Reference Material (2)

- BNF – including the initial ‘generic’ chapters in the print version
- A review has highlighted that **up to 27%** of AKT questions require a knowledge of therapeutics
- For example, although items might appear to be about a respiratory, cardiovascular or endocrine issue, the management will often involve recommending the correct medication – also requiring an awareness of the potential for interactions and monitoring requirements

# Reference Material: AI

- AI is a very convenient tool to find quick answers to problems. It can cover lots of different sources of information in a very short time.
- Many of you will use AI tools to help revision, as it is very time efficient method.
- We would like, however, to add one note of caution. At present, AI is not 100% reliable. Its accuracy may improve with time, but for now, we suggest that you also cross-check information against reputable sources. Helpfully, AI will often provide references it has used. If not, you can ask it to do this.

# GP Curriculum

## Where to find

- <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/training-exams/training/gp-curriculum-overview.aspx>

Curriculum summaries (can be very useful to identify learning needs):

- <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/gp-curriculum/super-condensed-guides>

## How the AKT links to the curriculum

- Questions in the AKT sample across the breadth of the curriculum
- The previous 'AKT Content Guide' has been subsumed within the GP Curriculum and details can be found in the Knowledge and Skills subsections of each Topic Guide

# GP Curriculum

## How to use the GP Curriculum

- Don't be put off by the lengthy list of topics!
- Use the topic guides as needs assessment tools
- Carefully review the sections relevant to:
  - Leadership and management – including administrative, statutory, ethical and regulatory frameworks
  - Evidence based practice, research and sharing knowledge – including statistics and epidemiology

# Different clinical experiences

Some candidates may be more familiar or experienced with some areas of the GP curriculum than others. This may be due to differences in undergraduate or postgraduate training both within and outside of the UK. It may also be due to exposure in their personal lives.

Some examples:

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Parents:           | Child health             |
| Overseas training: | Management of infections |
| UK training:       | NHS organisation         |

# Different clinical experiences

Increasingly tasks are delegated to other members of the medical team. Candidates may be less exposed to clinical areas where delegation is common.

Some examples:

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Chronic disease monitoring: | Nursing teams            |
| Eye problems :              | Opticians                |
| Elderly care:               | Care home visiting teams |

The curriculum covers all of our responsibilities as GPs. We encourage candidates to assess their knowledge, to identify gaps, and to discuss these with their trainers.

# MRCGP AKT Exam website

## Please look carefully at our website

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/applied-knowledge-test>

The 'How to prepare for the AKT' section contains helpful resources, including:

- 'Preparing to take the AKT'
- 50 AKT Sample questions with answers
- How trainers can help with AKT preparation
- Data interpretation in the AKT
- Data interpretation video series
- AKT FAQs
- Re-sitting the AKT
- The section 'AKT Feedback Reports' contains specific feedback on previous exams and should **help guide your revision plans**

# Exam Construction ensures:

- Reliability, validity, and fairness
- Adequate coverage of the topics that appear in the blueprint
- The correct balance of question formats

# Principles of exam construction

- **Relevance:** the AKT should be relevant to general practice
- **High prevalence:** any topic covered can be one which occurs commonly
- **High impact:** any topic covered can be one that is significant but less common

# AKT content

- **80% of questions**  
Core clinical medicine and its application to problem solving in a general practice context
- **10% of questions**  
Data interpretation, critical appraisal, and evidence based clinical practice
- **10% of questions**  
Ethical and legal issues as well as the organisational structures that support UK general practice

# Clinical Medicine (1)

- The broad topic of clinical medicine is subdivided into groups of body systems, in approximately equal numbers
- Each group will comprise questions on:
  - disease factors
  - symptoms
  - investigation
  - management

# Clinical Medicine (2)

- Cardiovascular
- Dermatology
- Endocrinology
- ENT
- Gastroenterology
- Genetics
- Haematology
- Immunology
- Infection
- Mental health & learning disability
- Musculo-skeletal
- Neurology
- Ophthalmology
- Paediatrics
- Renal
- Reproductive  
male/female
- Respiratory
- Therapeutic  
indications and  
adverse reactions

# Clinical Medicine (3)

- Common, (mostly) low impact – e.g. sore throat, contraception, irritable bowel syndrome
- Rare, high impact – e.g. child abuse, meningitis, phaeochromocytoma
- Topical – e.g. changing guidance, optimum use of antibiotics, safe prescribing

# Critical appraisal and evidence-based clinical practice

- Understanding the application of critical appraisal skills which will be tested in several formats including:
  - interpretation of data commonly seen by GPs, including methods and results from published research
  - understanding of common terms used in both evidence-based medicine and statistics
  - understanding epidemiology relevant to general practice
- Understanding the principles of audit and its application in assessing the quality of care

# Critical appraisal and evidence based clinical practice

- We use a range of resources to test data interpretation, including the graphs and tables regularly sent to practices from local health service organisations and health boards.
- We encourage you to use this AKT Group tutorial worksheet:  
<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/getmedia/e2ba263c-385f-4e3c-9fc4-7bd13beeca40/data-interpretation-AKT.pdf>
- Prof Mike Harris also has produced several videos on data interpretation and research. These cover: understanding research data; interpreting diagnostic test statistics; interpreting risk; qualitative research; systematic review and meta-analysis; interpreting trial results. Links to these can be found here: <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/applied-knowledge-test/akt-preparing#Data-interpretation>

# Ethical, Legal & Organisational

These questions are written to be applicable UK-wide

- Appropriate resource use e.g. investigations
- Ethical e.g. Mental capacity, consent
- Health & Safety e.g. needlestick injury
- Leadership e.g. probity, record keeping
- Legal aspects e.g. significant DVLA advice
- Medical certification e.g. death certificates
- Prescribing e.g. Controlled drugs
- Professional regulation, e.g. GMC
- Social services e.g. safeguarding\*

\* <https://www.rcgp.org.uk/learning-resources/safeguarding-standards#4-The-role-of-GPs-and-general-practice-in-safeguar>

# Question Formats

- Single Best Answer (SBA)
- Multiple Best Answer (MBA)
- Extended Matching Questions (EMQ)
- Photographic image
- Data interpretation
- Free text
- Drug calculation

# Single Best Answer (SBA)

- “According to national guidelines” means recommended by nationally accepted guidelines or the BNF, **not** local practice
- Often use a clinical scenario
- Only **one** answer is correct
- Other incorrect options may be **plausible** but not “**most** likely/**most** appropriate”

# SBA example: *Respiratory disease*

A 41-year-old man has a chronic cough and is producing green sputum daily. He has a history of recurrent chest infections in childhood.

Which is the **most** likely diagnosis? Select **one** option only.

- A. Asthma
- B. Bronchiectasis
- C. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- D. Gastro-oesophageal reflux
- E. Lung cancer

# Multiple Best Answer (MBA)

- Often uses a clinical scenario
- **Two** answers are correct
- **Both** answers must be chosen to score **one** mark
- Other options may be **plausible** but not the “**most** likely/**most** appropriate”

# MBA example: *Helicobacter pylori*

A 35-year-old man has persistent dyspepsia. A stool test for *Helicobacter pylori* is positive. He has not yet received any antibiotic treatment and is allergic to penicillin.

According to current national guidance, which are the two **most** appropriate **first-line** antibiotics to combine with omeprazole to eradicate *H.pylori*? Select **two** options only and both must be correct to score **one** mark.

*(See next slide)*

# MBA example: *Helicobacter pylori*

- A. Amoxicillin
- B. Cefalexin
- C. Clarithromycin
- D. Co-amoxiclav
- E. Doxycycline
- F. Erythromycin
- G. Lymecline
- H. Metronidazole

# Extended matching questions (EMQ)

- These questions have a list of possible options
- There will usually be two or more scenarios
- Choose the **most** likely/**most** appropriate option that **best** matches each given scenario
- Each option can be used once, more than once, or not at all

# EMQ example: *Dietary advice*

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| A. Elemental diet   | E. High fibre    |
| B. FODMAP           | F. Lactose-free  |
| C. Food elimination | G. Low purine    |
| D. Gluten-free      | H. Mediterranean |

For the patient described, select the **most** appropriate diet from the list of options.

1. A 23-year-old woman has had mild diarrhoea, abdominal pain and bloating for several years. Her bloods are normal, including IgA anti-tTG antibodies test.

# EMQ example: *Dietary advice*

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| A. Elemental diet   | E. High fibre    |
| B. FODMAP           | F. Lactose-free  |
| C. Food elimination | G. Low purine    |
| D. Gluten-free      | H. Mediterranean |

For the patient described, select the **most** appropriate diet from the list of options.

2. A 62-year-old man has recurrent swelling of his great toe which responds to naproxen. He drinks 18 units of alcohol a week and his urate level is 540  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  (Normal < 450  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ).

# Picture Format example:

## *Skin disease*

A 32-year-old man has a rash affecting both elbows.

He is using a topical emollient regularly.



[pcds.org.uk](http://pcds.org.uk)

# Picture Format example:

## *Skin disease*

According to current guidance, in addition to emollients, which is the **most** appropriate **initial** topical treatment? Select **one** option only.

- A. Calcipotriol + betamethasone
- B. Calcitriol
- C. Fusidic acid + hydrocortisone
- D. Mometasone furoate
- E. Tacrolimus

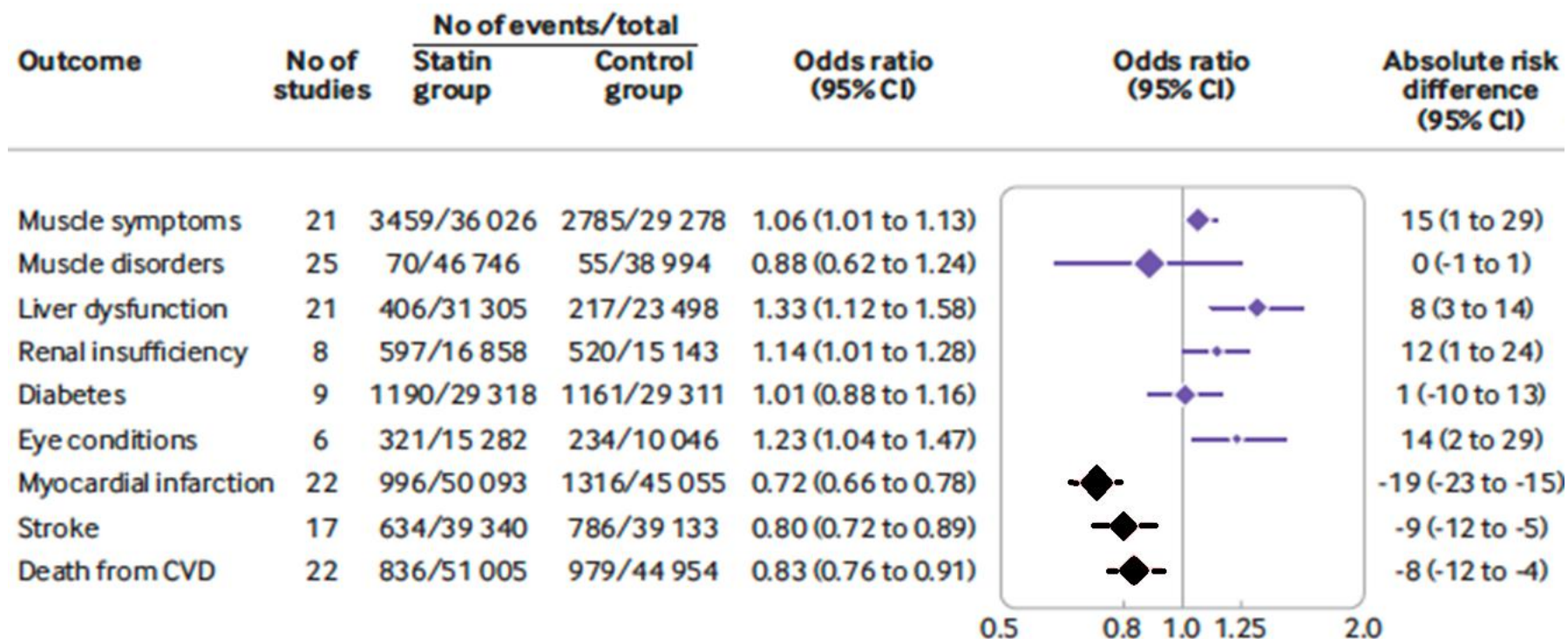
# Data Interpretation

- Interpretation of data, e.g for groups of patients with chronic conditions
- Interpretation of research and audit results
- Understanding and application of common statistical terms, e.g number needed to treat (NNT) and absolute or relative risk

# Data Interpretation example

## Statins

The figure shows a meta-analysis of safety and efficacy outcomes for statins in the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD).



BMJ 2021;374:n1537 Fig 3

# Data Interpretation example

## Statins

According to the data shown, which is the **most** accurate statistical description of the effects of statins? Select **one** option only.

- A. Increased risk of diabetes
- B. Increased risk of muscle disorders
- C. Increased risk of stroke
- D. Reduced risk of death from CVD
- E. Reduced risk of liver dysfunction

# Free text questions

- Require the candidate to generate the correct answer without a list of options to choose from
- For example:
  - dose calculation
  - name of first-line medication
- Eliminates guessing from a list of answers
- All answers are screened manually to check for minor typographical errors which may be counted as correct.
- Candidates will be expected to spell drug names correctly

# Free text example

A 87-year-old man has type 2 diabetes and a BMI of 33 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. His HbA<sub>1c</sub> is 62 mmol/mol on diet alone. His renal function is normal but he had a CVA a year ago and remains poorly mobile.

Which is the **most** appropriate **initial** drug treatment? Give **one** answer only.

# Free text questions - numerical

- An on-screen calculator is available
- Any arithmetic required in an AKT question (e.g. drug dose calculations) is basic and simple and most candidates do not need to use it
- Remember to check that your given answer is credible!

# Calculation example

A 3-year-old boy is to start prophylactic trimethoprim 2 mg/kg once every night. He weighs 12.5 kg and trimethoprim oral suspension is available as 50 mg/ 5ml.

What **volume** of liquid is required for thirty days use?

Type your answer in the following text box. Use figures not words. Percentages and fractions are not acceptable.

**mls**

# Scoring

- All question formats have equal weighting
- Each correctly answered question is awarded one mark
- Total score on the paper is the number of correct answers given
- No negative marking – it is important to answer all the questions

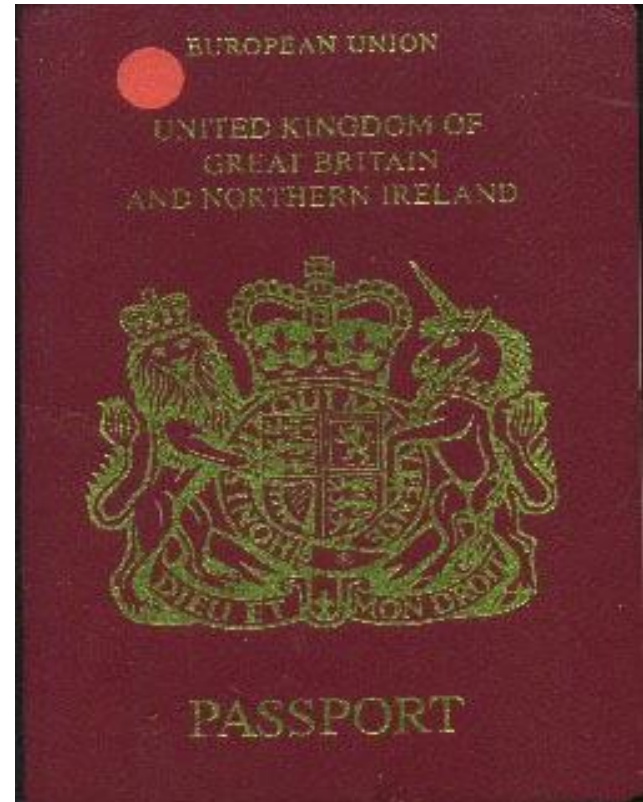
# Computer Based Testing

- Once candidates have applied via the RCGP website to sit the AKT, they are then directed to the Pearson website to make their test centre booking.
- There is a limited booking window with 'first come, first serve' choice of test session and venue.
- There are approximately 150 test centres covering all parts of the UK.



# Computer Based Testing Rules

- Candidates **must** bring identity documents **which match exactly** their application details (see next slide)
- Candidates should arrive in good time
- Candidates who either arrive late or fail to provide matching ID, will **not** be admitted to sit the AKT



# Identification documents to take to the test centre

You need to take **two** documents.

Both must be originals (not copies) and currently valid:

- **A primary ID**

- Your primary ID must be government issued, and include your name, recent recognisable photo and signature (e.g. passport, photo driving licence)

- **A secondary ID**

- Any ID containing at least a name and signature (e.g. credit and debit cards) **or** a name and recent recognisable photo that follows the ID requirements

<https://home.pearsonvue.com/Policies/1S/English>

# Matching names on documents

- The first and last name shown on both of your identification documents **must match exactly** the names you used when submitting your application to the RCGP.
- **If the names are different:**
  - For example, if one is your maiden name and one your married name then you must also bring an original official document that links the two names (e.g. a marriage certificate).
- **If in doubt:**
  - You must contact the RCGP well **before** the exam date.

# Reasonable adjustments (RA)

- The RCGP has a duty to ensure equality and fairness to candidates and patients
- If you have a disability or specific need which requires an adjustment to your exam, please consult the **MRCGP RA page** of the RCGP website for further information in the first instance
- All requests for adjustments should be submitted by the deadline defined on the RA page of the RCGP website. Requests can be submitted early, as soon as you start training, or after a new diagnosis.
- To aid the RCGP in providing your approved RA, early booking is recommended (separate individual test rooms are limited)
- For candidates awarded 50% or more extra time, this is available only in afternoon sessions. Any recommended rest breaks are **included** in extra time, so the timings of breaks need to be carefully managed by candidates.

# Computer Based Testing

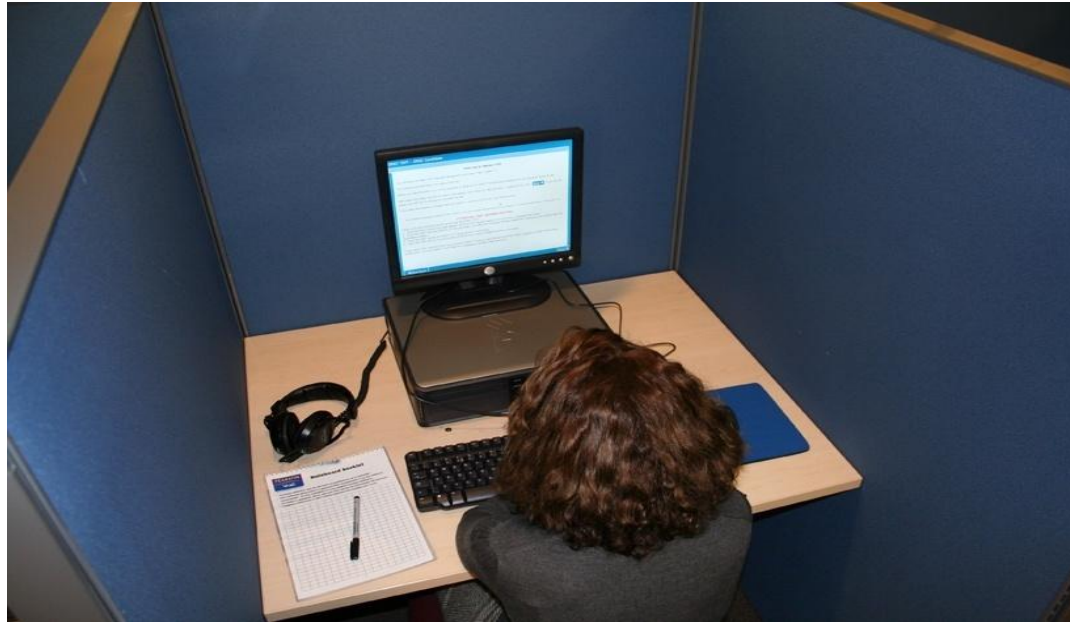
- Security at each centre will be robust:
  - Identity checks
  - Invigilated
  - Video monitoring
- Separate morning and afternoon sittings with a 'quarantine' period at lunchtime.
- Morning candidates will not be allowed to leave before the end of the test



# Computer Based Testing

- It is **strongly** recommended that candidates familiarise themselves with the RCGP Sample Exam on the Pearson website
  - <http://www.pearsonvue.com/rcgp/>
- Every AKT will begin with a short tutorial to remind candidates how to select answers and 'mark' questions – screen shots follow of the live tutorial

# Computer Based Testing



Responses will be uploaded to a central server and then passed to the RCGP for post-test analysis

# Computer Based Testing



Results and feedback will be sent individually to the candidate's ePortfolio and will be available **by the end of the day** on the published results date

# Feedback to candidates

- The following feedback will be provided to every candidate with their result
  - Their overall score
  - The pass mark
  - Their performance in each of the three main subject areas
  - The mean performance of the cohort overall and in each of the three main subject areas

# AKT Feedback Reports

- More general feedback on overall performance will continue to be forwarded to all UK deaneries/LETBs and saved on the RCGP website
- It is helpful to look at these individual feedback reports and the Five-year summary report to identify topics which commonly cause difficulty:

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/applied-knowledge-test/further-help-support#AKT-feedback-reports>

# AKT tutorial

- At the test centre, before starting an AKT exam, **all** candidates have to complete a 10-minute Pearson tutorial comprising example clinical questions.
- These are not part of the exam and are **not** marked
- The following slides show example screenshots from the pre-exam Tutorial, but this can be viewed in advance, in its entirety, from a link on the AKT exam webpages

# Online AKT Tutorial

## Applied Knowledge Test Tutorial

▾ Highlight (I) ✎ Strikethrough (W) 🗒 Calculator



### Tutorial

You will be presented with a short tutorial to familiarise yourself with the format of the Applied Knowledge Test (AKT).

These questions are **not** part of the exam and will **not** be scored. You **must** view this tutorial before starting the exam.

The tutorial questions will include examples of the question types you may encounter in the AKT, but not all types will appear in every exam. You will be given 10 minutes to complete the following practice questions and information screens. You will then be warned before the test actually starts.

Click the **Next** button (or press Alt + N) to begin the tutorial.

# Test Day Tutorial: Opening Screen

Applied Knowledge Test Tutorial

⌚ Time Remaining 09:10  
📄 1 of 15

🟡 Highlight (J) ✎ Strikethrough (W) 📊 Calculator

🚩 Flag for Review

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## Navigation

Navigate using the buttons at the bottom right of each screen:

 (or shortcut Alt + N)

 (or shortcut Alt + P)

## Time and Progress

 The time remaining is displayed in the top right corner of the screen.

 The current question position (for example "1 of 12") is displayed underneath.

By clicking on the  or  icons, you can hide the time remaining or current question position. When you have five (5) minutes remaining during the exam, the time remaining will automatically reappear.

**Click the Next button to continue.**

# Test Day Tutorial: Flagging questions for later review

## Applied Knowledge Test Tutorial

 ▾ Highlight (J)  Strikethrough (W)  Calculator



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### Flagging items for review

You are able to 'flag' questions you wish to return to later. If you wish to review any of the questions, this must be completed within the permitted test time.

To flag a question for review click on  (shortcut ALT + F).

A yellow flag will appear when a question has been flagged 

To unflag a question, click it again or use shortcut ALT + F.

**Click the Next button to continue.**

# Test Day Tutorial: Using the review screen

## Applied Knowledge Test Tutorial



Highlight (I) Strikethrough (W) Calculator



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### Using the Review Screen

On completion of the last question, the Review Screen is automatically displayed. A flag will appear next to questions you have flagged. Unanswered questions will be displayed as 'incomplete'.

| Applied Knowledge Test Section (189 Unseen/Incomplete) |                        |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Question 1                                             | Question 2 Incomplete  | Question 3  |
| Question 4                                             | Question 5 Incomplete  | Question 6  |
| Question 7 Incomplete                                  | Question 8             | Question 9  |
| Question 10                                            | Question 11            | Question 12 |
| Question 13                                            | Question 14 Incomplete | Question 15 |

The following buttons are available on the Review Screen:

|                          |                                                     |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Review All</b>        | Click to review all questions and answers           |
| <b>Review Incomplete</b> | Review only the questions that were left incomplete |
| <b>Review Flagged</b>    | Review the questions that are flagged for review    |

To end the exam, click the 'End Review' button on the Review Screen. Once you click this button, you can no longer go back to review or change your responses.

**Click the Next button to continue.**

# Test Day Tutorial: SBA question example

## Applied Knowledge Test Tutorial

▾ Highlight (J) ✎ Strikethrough (W) 📄 Calculator

### **Example 1: Single Best Answer Question**

#### **Management of type 2 diabetes**

A 64-year-old man has recently been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes after being investigated for lethargy and recurrent urinary tract infections.

His BMI is 32/kg/m<sup>2</sup>, BP 135/84 and his blood results are as follows:

|                              | One week ago | Normal range |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Full blood count             | Normal       |              |
| HbA <sub>1c</sub> (mmol/mol) | 64           | <42          |
| eGFR (ml/min)                | >60          | >90          |
| Total cholesterol (mmol/L)   | 5.1          | <5           |
| HDL-cholesterol (mmol/L)     | 1.1          | >1.0         |
| Urinary ACR (mg/mmol)        | 2.1          | <3           |

In addition to lifestyle advice, which is the **most** appropriate **initial** drug treatment? Select **one** option only.

- ☐ Exenatide
- ☒ Liraglutide
- ☐ Metformin
- ☐ Pioglitazone
- ☐ Insulin

# Test Day Tutorial: EMQ question example

## Applied Knowledge Test Tutorial

▢ Highlight (J) ✎ Strikethrough (W) 📊 Calculator

### **Example 4: Extended Matching Question (1 of 2)**

#### **Visual disturbance (1 of 2)**

A 39-year-old woman attends the out of hours centre at 11pm. During a meal at a restaurant earlier that evening, she noticed bright lines of light followed by a loss of vision affecting a small area of the visual field in both eyes. By the time she is seen, all her symptoms have resolved apart from slight nausea.

For the patient described, select the **most** likely diagnosis from the list of options.

- ☐ Vitreous haemorrhage
- ☐ Acute glaucoma
- ☐ Central retinal artery occlusion
- ☐ Retinal detachment
- ☐ Retinal vein thrombosis
- ☐ Central serous retinopathy
- ☐ Migraine
- ☐ Optic neuritis

# Test Day Tutorial: MBA question example

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### ***Example 3: Multiple Best Answer Question***

#### **Body mass index**

Which are the **two most** appropriate clinical examinations required to calculate a patient's body mass index? Select **two** options only.

- ☐ Waist measurement (cm)
- ☐ Wrist circumference (cm)
- ☐ Weight (kg)
- ☐ Abdominal fat fold thickness (cm)
- ☐ Ankle circumference (cm)
- ☐ Triceps fat fold thickness (cm)
- ☐ Height (m)

# Test Day Tutorial: Free Text question example (including calculator)

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### ***Example 6: Free Text Question***

#### **Data interpretation**

What is the **mean** of the following series of numbers?

5  
10  
10  
10  
15

Type your **numerical** answer in the box below.

# Exam technique 1

- **Time management** – this is everything
- Keep watching the countdown clock on the computer
- 160 questions in 2 hours 40 minutes = an average of 1 minute per question
- You should skip questions you find difficult rather than waste time. Electronically 'flag for review' the ones you have left out but don't forget to leave time to go back before the end

# Exam technique 2

- Cover test – can you answer the question with the option list covered? If so, it's probably the correct answer
- Go through unanswered questions 2<sup>nd</sup> time round using the review facility
- Do not leave any questions unanswered – educated guessing is worthwhile
- Check for silly mistakes if you still have time

# Exam technique 3

- All the AKT question formats, apart from the free text, require the candidate to identify the best answer(s) from a given list of plausible alternatives, using all of the information in the question
- There may be other answers which are not included in the option list, but you have to focus on the best available answer listed for the specific question asked

# Further preparation

- Small (online?) revision groups share the workload: review national guidance, BNF etc.
- Learn from clinical experience – check the guidelines and references.
- AKT Exam website feedback (feedback reports published for every AKT sitting and the 5-year summary)
- AKT Exam website podcast, preparation guide and sample material
- RCGP eLearning website – Essential Knowledge Updates and Challenges, as well as GP Self Test to help identify educational needs for more specific revision planning

# And finally....

- Remember that most people can pass this exam.....
- But you do need to be organised, plan ahead and prepare well for it
- Do make effective use of the RCGP Curriculum Knowledge and Skills guides and don't overlook the **super condensed guides**